of themselves without anybody to look after them. In conclusion, the Member said that the only way of remedying such evils would be by attaching a hostel to every Higher Grade Secondary School and thus affording an opportunity to pupils in the higher Forms to live and study under desirable surroundings. There were only 8 or 9 such schools and the initial organisation was all that was wanted. The hostels, once they were started, could be run on self-supporting lines. In the case of Private Schools, moral compulsion from the Government, supplemented by some help wherever necessary, would be the best means of starting hostels in them. If necessary, it should be even made a condition of recognition of the schools. He requested that a move might be made in the direction indicated and all the hostels required gradually brought into existence.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

111. The need for improving the method of selecting Text-books.

Mr. Kanakku Narayanan Kesavan (Member, Kottayam taluk) said that of late a strong public opinion was gaining ground that the selection of text-books by the Text-book Committee was far from satisfactory, more especially in regard to the Vernacular text-books, and that the books selected were unfit for use as text-books in the classes for which they were intended. That was partly due to the paucity, in the Sub-Committees, of men of superior erudition and of impartial mind. The Members of the Text-book Committee were now solely selected from the Education Department, unlike the Board of Studies of the Madras University. The Member suggested that learned and proficient men in the service outside the Education Department should also be Members of the Text-book Committee.

He next pointed out that, in the selection of text-books, the Members were sometimes swayed by personal considerations for the authors of the books. Considerations of the pecuniary advantage of a few select writers, who got round the Members, should not be allowed to weigh in the selection of text-books, as the sufferers by such indiscriminate selection were the poor boys. To obviate the evil, the Member suggested that—

(1) The names of all books from which a selection was to be made should be published in the Gazette sufficiently early, for the information of the public;

(2) The Committee should invariably record the reasons for approving or rejecting any text-book; and

(3) The Committee should record the reasons for selecting the books of a particular author in preference to others.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be communicated to the Director of Public Instruction.

112. The necessity for an investigation into the cause of the poor health of the School-going population in the State.

Mr. V. N. Atchutha Panicker (Member, Parur taluk) said that the health of the school-going population was far from satisfactory. It was partly due to the fact that the school-children had to walk 4 or 5 miles every morning to school, and also cover the same distance in the evening, owing to the extinction of the large number of village and grand-in-aid schools that had existed before. It was also due to the fact that a good number of the boys and girls had to remain in school without any food in the noon. The reason for that was not the poverty of the parents, but the situation of the schools in places far distant from their houses. Further, boys in the higher classes often came to the towns for their studies, and for want of proper hostels, they had to mess in some unclean hotel or club-house, much to the prejudice of their health, and, what was more, of their character. The Member had intended to propose the appointment of a Committee to enquire into and report on the whole

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

question. But, on reconsideration, he thought that it would be enough if the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspectors of Schools investigated into the matter and took the necessary steps for remedying the growing evil. The essential requisites for safe-guarding the health of the school-children were settled things, and all that was necessary was to examine if the Sirkar schools satisfied those requirements, and, if not, to set about supplying them.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

113. A plea for inceased aid and support from the Government for the education of the Malayala Brahmins.

Mr. Thrivikramar Vasudevar (Member, Nominated) said that the Malayala Brahmins had to observe Brahmacharya till the 14th year of age, and during that period they could not wear any cloth. The provisions of the Education Code requiring the boys to be properly dressed and insisting on the production of a leaving certificate from a recognised school acted as serious impediments to the education of the community. It was not an easy thing to change their *acharas* to suit the requirements of the Code. He therefore asked for the following concessions being granted with a view to encourage the spread of education in the community:—

(1) The boys of the community seeking admission in any school should not be required to produce a certificate from a recognised school, but they should be examined by the headmaster and admitted into the classes for which they might be found fit. In other words, the private education of a boy at home should qualify him for admission to a higher standard.

(2) In view of their *acharas* above referred to, the Bill introduced into the Legislative Council for making Elementary Education compulsory, if it should become law, should not be made applicable to the Malayala Brahmins.

(3) The provisions of the Education Code should not also apply, in the matter of recognition and awarding grants, to the special schools started by the community.

(4) There should be no restriction to the number of admissions in the Special School at Kunnathur. The school should be raised to the standard of a High School and the necessary buildings put up. Boarding arrangements should also be made for the students. The community would give the required lands free of compensation.

The Member added that the savings to the Government under the head of "*Oathoottu*" would more than meet the expenditure entailed by his proposals.

Mr. Devan Krishnaru (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) requested that, in view of the backward condition of the Malayala Brahmins in the matter of education, facilities should be afforded by the Government in the following ways:—

(1) The boys of the community receiving private instruction should be examined and admitted to the classes for which they were fit.

(2) The Malayala Brahmin boys should be exempted from the payment of school-fees in all Sirkar schools.

(3) The members of the community now in the public service should be encouraged by giving them rapid promotion.

(4) The unpassed members of the community, who were able to read and write well, should be given appointments suited to their qualifications, in such departments as the Devaswom, Registration and Anchal.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly